IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A sealing apparatus for use in a wellbore, comprising:

an expandable tubular support member having a flow port; and

an inflatable seal element mounted externally of the expandable tubular support member for inflation radially outwardly into sealing engagement with at least a portion of the wellbore, wherein the flow port provides a flow path between an interior of the support member and a chamber defined by the seal element.

2. (Canelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the portion of the wellbore is lined with a tubular.

4. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 1, further comprising at least one chamber adapted for inflation to urge the seal element radially outwardly.

5. (Canelled)

6. (Canelled)

7. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 4, wherein the chamber is annular and at least partially defined by the seal element and the support member.

8. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 4, wherein the chamber is adapted to be initially isolated from annulus pressure and fluid in the wellbore.

9. (Canelled)

10. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a filler material adapted for maintaining the seal element in sealing engagement with the wellbore.

11. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a chamber adapted for inflation to urge the seal element radially outwardly, the chamber containing a filler material adapted for maintaining the seal element under pressure in sealing engagement with the wellbore.

12. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 10, wherein the filler material is adapted to react with a reactant to solidify and maintain the chamber in an inflated condition.

13. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 10, wherein the filler material comprises a granular solid material.

14. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the seal element is adapted to be inflated by applied fluid pressure.

15. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 14, comprising a reactant fluid for reacting with a filler material in the seal element to form a single, solid member for maintaining the seal element inflated.

16. – 46. (Canelled)

47. (Previously Presented) A sealing apparatus for use in a wellbore, comprising:

at least two expandable seals for sealing engagement with a wall of the wellbore, each expandable seal comprising an expandable tubular support member and an

inflatable seal element mounted externally of the expandable tubular support member for inflation radially outwardly into sealing engagement with the wall.

48. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 47, wherein the at least two expandable seals comprise a first expandable seal spaced apart from a second expandable seal.

49. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 48, further comprising an expandable tubular extending between the first and second expandable seals.

50. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 49, wherein the expandable tubular comprises an expandable sandscreen.

51. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 50, wherein the expandable sandscreen comprises an inner expandable support tubing, an outer expandable protective tubing and a filter screen sandwiched between the inner and outer tubing.

52. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 49, further comprising a solid tubular coupled to at least one of the first and second expandable seals.

53. (Canelled)

54. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 52, wherein the solid tubular is expandable.

55. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 49, wherein the expandable tubular comprises an at least partly perforated tubular.

56. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 48, comprising an expandable sandscreen located around the seals, the sandscreen adapted to be

expanded in one or more location by inflation of the inflatable seal element of a selected one or more seal.

57. – 79. (Canelled)

80. (Currently Amended) A sealing apparatus ~~for sealing at least one flow port in an expandable downhole tubular~~, the sealing apparatus comprising:

an expandable tubular support member having a flow port;

an inflatable seal element mounted externally of the expandable tubular support member for inflation radially outwardly into sealing engagement with at least a portion of the wellbore, wherein the flow port provides a flow path between an interior of the support member and a chamber defined by the seal element; and

a sealing member coupled to the expandable tubular, the sealing member including a deformable portion movable between a closed position preventing fluid flow through the flow port and an open position permitting fluid flow through the flow port.

81. (Original) A sealing apparatus as claimed in claim 80, wherein the sealing member is adapted to be expanded on expansion of the expandable tubular.

82. (Original) A sealing apparatus as claimed in claim 80, wherein the deformable portion is normally urged towards the closed position.

83. (Original) A sealing apparatus as claimed in claim 80, wherein the deformable portion is plastically deformable.

84. (Original) A sealing apparatus as claimed in claim 80, wherein the deformable portion is movable between the closed and open positions in response to an applied fluid pressure force.

85. (Original) A sealing apparatus as claimed in claim 84, wherein the deformable portion is adapted to move to the open position in response to an applied fluid pressure force of a determined magnitude.

86. (Original) A sealing apparatus as claimed in claim 80, wherein the sealing member is mounted externally of the expandable tubular.

87. (Original) A sealing apparatus as claimed in claim 86, wherein the sealing member is secured to an outer surface of the tubular.

88-90. (Canelled)

91. (Original) A sealing apparatus as claimed in claim 89, wherein the sealing member is of a material having a lower Young's modulus than the expandable tubular.

92. (Original) A sealing apparatus as claimed in claim 80, wherein the sealing member is annular and has an end adapted to be secured to the expandable tubular.

93. (Original) A sealing apparatus as claimed in claim 92, wherein the other end of the sealing member engages the expandable tubular in an interference fit.

94. (Original) A sealing apparatus as claimed in claim 80, wherein the sealing member is adapted for sealing a plurality of flow ports spaced around a circumference of the expandable tubular.

95. (Original) A sealing apparatus as claimed in claim 80, wherein the sealing member is adapted for sealing a plurality of flow ports spaced along a length of the expandable tubular.

96. (Original) A sealing apparatus as claimed in claim 95, wherein the sealing member is a sleeve.

97. (Cacelled)

98. (Previously Presented) A method of sealing a portion of a wellbore, comprising:

providing one or more expandable seals, the one or more expandable seals having:

a tubular support member; and

a seal element mounted on the tubular support member;

locating the one or more expandable seals in the wellbore;

expanding the tubular support member; and

inflating the seal element radially outwardly into sealing engagement with the wellbore.

99. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 98, wherein the support member is mechanically expanded.

100. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 99, wherein the seal element is expanded when the support member is expanded.

101. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 98, further comprising maintaining the seal element in sealing engagement with the wellbore.

102. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 98, wherein the seal element is inflated by supplying a fluid under pressure to the seal element.

103. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 102, wherein the fluid is supplied to a chamber between the support member and the seal element.

104. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 102, wherein the fluid is pressurized above a pore pressure of a rock formation in the region of the wellbore adjacent the seal.

105. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 102, wherein the fluid reacts with a filler material in the seal to form a single solid mass for maintaining the seal element inflated.

106. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 102, wherein the fluid reacts with a filler material in the seal to form a viscous mass for maintaining the seal element inflated and under pressure.

107. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 98, further comprising enlarging the wellbore before locating the one or more expandable seals.

108. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 98, further comprising providing an expandable sandscreen around the seal and expanding the sandscreen by inflating the seal element of the seal.

109. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 98, wherein the one or more expandable seals comprise a first expandable seal coupled to a second expandable seal.

110. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 109, wherein the first and second expandable seals are coupled to an expandable tubular.

111. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 110, further comprising expanding the expandable tubular.

112. (Currently Amended) A method for isolating a wellbore, comprising:
running a sealing apparatus into the wellbore, the sealing apparatus having:

a tubular;

a sealing element disposed around the tubular;

an annular area defined between the tubular and the sealing element; and

a fluid retaining material disposed in the annular area, wherein the material is a swelling elastomer;

supplying a fluid into the annular area;

increasing the volume of the annular area; and

reacting the fluid retaining material with the fluid, thereby maintaining at least a portion of the increased volume.

113. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 112, wherein increasing the volume comprises inflating the sealing element.

114. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 112, wherein the fluid retaining material increases in size after reacting with the fluid.

115. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 112, wherein reacting the fluid retaining material with the fluid forms a viscous mixture.

116. (Cancelled)

117. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 112, further comprising expanding the tubular.

118. (Currently Amended) A method for isolating a wellbore, comprising:

running a packer into the wellbore, the packer having a sealing element and a filler material, wherein the filler material is disposed in the packer prior to the running;

introducing a fluid into the packer after running the packer into the wellbore, the fluid for inflating the sealing element into contact with the wellbore; and

reacting the filler material with [[a]] the fluid in the packer, thereby maintaining the sealing element in an inflated state.

119. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 118, further comprising supplying fluid to the packer to inflate the sealing element.

120. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 118, wherein the filler material swells upon contact with the fluid.

121. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 118, wherein the sealing element maintains a sealing contact with the wellbore after inflation.

122. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 118, wherein reacting the filler material with the fluid forms a viscous mixture.

123. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 122, wherein the mixture solidifies over time.

124. (Currently Amended) A sealing apparatus, comprising:

a tubular;

a sealing element disposed around the tubular;

an annular area defined between the tubular and the sealing element;

a material disposed in the annular area, the material adapted to retain at least a portion of a fluid supplied to the annular area, wherein the fluid comprises water.

125. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 124, wherein the material increases in size upon contact with the fluid.

126. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 124, wherein the sealing element is expandable by the fluid.

127. (Currently Amended) The sealing apparatus of claim [[114]] 124, wherein the material and the retained fluid maintains the sealing element in an expanded state.

128. (Cancelled)

129. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 124, wherein the material is selected from the group consisting of a polymer, swelling elastomer, bentonite, clay, and combinations thereof.

130. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 124, wherein the tubular comprises an expandable tubular.

131. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 130, wherein expansion of the expandable tubular also expands the sealing element.

132. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 124, wherein the fluid reacts with the filler material to form a viscous mass, for maintaining the seal element inflated.

133. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 124, further comprising a sealing member for controlling application of fluid pressure to the seal element and for maintaining inflation of the seal element.

134. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 133, wherein the sealing member comprises a generally tubular valve member adapted to open when fluid pressure within the valve member is at least equal to the pressure of fluid outside the valve member and adapted to close when fluid pressure within the valve member is less than that outside the valve member.

135. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 134, wherein the tubular valve member is collapsible to close the valve.

136. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 124, further comprising a sealing member coupled to the tubular, the sealing member having a deformable portion movable between a closed position and an open position for controlling application of fluid pressure to the seal element.

137. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 136, wherein the sealing member is expandable together with the tubular.

138. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 136, wherein the sealing member is movable between the closed and open positions in response to an applied fluid pressure force.

139. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 136, wherein the sealing member is mounted externally of the tubular and is of a material having a Young's modulus greater than that of the tubular.

140. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 124, wherein the seal element is elastically deformable.

141. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 124, wherein the seal element comprises an elastomeric material.

142. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 124, wherein the tubular includes at least one aperture for fluid communication between the seal element and the interior of the tubular.

143. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 142, wherein the support member includes a plug for closing the at least one aperture to initially prevent fluid communication between the seal element and the interior of the tubular.

144. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 143, wherein the at least one aperture is openable by deformation of the plug.

145. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 143, wherein the plug includes a hollow portion and an end cap for closing flow through the hollow portion, and wherein the end cap is removable to allow fluid communication through the hollow portion.

146. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 144, wherein the plug is adapted to be crushed to open the at least one aperture.

147. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 143, wherein the plug is removable to allow fluid communication.

148. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 147, wherein the plug is releasably engageable in the at least one aperture and is adapted to disengage the at least one aperture to allow fluid communication on expansion of the tubular.

149. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 142, further comprising a sealing member for controlling application of fluid pressure through the at least one aperture to the seal element and for maintaining inflation of the seal element.

150. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 142, further comprising a sealing member for controlling application of fluid pressure to the seal element and for maintaining inflation of the seal element, the sealing member adapted to seal a plurality of apertures.

151. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 142, wherein the tubular is at least partially perforated.

152. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 124, comprising an expandable sandscreen located around the seal, the sandscreen adapted to be expanded by inflation of the inflatable seal element of the seal.

153. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 124, further comprising a screen member provided between the seal element and the tubular.

154. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 153, wherein a pore size of the screen member is smaller than the average size of the filler material.

155. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 124, further comprising at least one reinforcing member for reinforcing the seal element to support the seal element during expansion.

156. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 155, wherein the sealing apparatus includes a reinforcing member at each end of the seal element to contain inflation of the seal element.

157. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 155, wherein the reinforcing member is integral with the seal element or separate from the seal element.

158. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the inflated seal element circumferentially contacts the wellbore.